

## CITY OF BLAINE

### ENGINEERING DEFINITIONS

**Assessments** – A compulsory charge for a particular improvement or service which benefits the owners of certain properties and which are also undertaken in the interest of the public. Special assessments have three distinct characteristics (1) They are a compulsory levy used to finance a particular public improvement program (2) The levy is charged only against those particular parcels of property deemed to receive benefit from the program (3) The amount of the charge bears some relationship to the value of the benefits received. Special assessments are only imposed on real estate.

**Boulevard** – the area between the back of curb or edge of road and the right-of-way line.

**Easement** - An easement is the right of an individual, company, or governmental entity to the limited use of the land owned by another for a specific purpose. That purpose may be for drainage, access, transportation, sanitary sewers, storm sewers, water main, trail, ponding, wetlands or any other public use. Different purposes may be combined in one easement.

**Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)** - A screening tool to determine whether a full environmental impact statement is needed. The worksheet is a six-page questionnaire about the project's environmental setting, the potential for environmental harm and plans to reduce the harm.

**Environment Impact Statement (EIS)** - An in-depth analysis used for major development projects that will significantly change the environment. The statement covers social and economic influences, as well as environmental impact, and looks at alternate ways to proceed with the project.

**Environmental Quality Board (EQB)** – The Environment Quality Board writes the rules for conducting environmental reviews. The actual reviews are usually conducted by governing bodies such as a county board, city council or a state agency. The mission of the Environmental Quality Board is to lead Minnesota environmental policy by responding to key issues, providing appropriate review and coordination, serving as a public forum and developing long-range strategies to enhance Minnesota's environmental quality.

**Municipal Urban Service Area (MUSA)** - This is the area designated by the Metropolitan Council for future provision of urban services (city sanitary sewer and water). Since these boundaries are regularly adjusted to respond to changes in local comprehensive plans, the MUSA is not a fixed area.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** – A permit program which controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States.

**Street Overlay** – An overlay involves the placement of a new layer of asphalt, approximately one and a half to two inches thick, on the street. Properly maintained, an overlay can extend the life of the street by twenty to twenty-five years although heavily used streets may require more frequent overlays.

**Right-of-Way** - All roads are located within land which is referred to as road right-of-way. Within a typical right-of-way, the following public facilities can be found: the road surface, concrete curbing, roadside shoulders and ditch, public utilities, sidewalks, private utilities and traffic signs to name a few. Road right-of-way width is established by deed, statute, or through

the platting process. Regardless, lands within the road right-of-way are reserved for use of the traveling public and maintenance of the road and utilities systems.

**Sanitary Sewer Trunk** – Sanitary sewer line that serves a larger area and connects to lift stations. Lateral lines branch off of sanitary sewer trunk lines.

**Seal Coat** - Seal coat seals the asphalt pavement, preventing the oxidation and erosion of the top layer of asphalt. On older pavements seal coating replaces fine particles lost from the asphalt surface due to oxidation. Seal coat seals the small cracks that can turn into large cracks and prevents water from seeping down to the base material. Seal coat helps protect the asphalt from the sun as well as the harmful effects of chemical spills such as oil and gasoline. Seal coat costs pennies per square foot compared to the dollars needed to repair or replace damaged asphalt. After a surface has been sealed it should be re-sealed every 3 - 4 years or as necessary.

**Vacation** - A vacation removes the public's interest on the property. This can be public or private property. Only the people adjacent to the dedicated property can formally petition to have it vacated. People who do *not* own property adjacent to the dedicated property *cannot* get it vacated under the statutory process. Vacating a utility easement requires the review and approval of all agencies that benefit from the easement before it can be vacated.

**Water Main Trunk** – Water main line which services lateral lines and connects between wells and towers.

**Watershed District** – The City of Blaine is covered by three watershed districts, Coon Creek Watershed, Rice Creek Watershed, and Six Cities Water Management Organization. Watersheds maintain regulatory function over storm water control and wetland management within the City.